

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed January 21, 2006 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Upon entry of the amendment submitted herewith, claims 1 through 16, 18 through 22, 24 through 41, 44 through 61, 64 through 74, 77 through 106, and 109 through 121 are currently pending, with claims 1, 31, 52, 70, 86, 97, 102, and 112 being independent claims. Claims 1, 18, 23 through 25, 27, 30, 44, 46, 48, 64, 66, 69, 77, 79, 81, 102, 104, 105, 108 through 111, and 117 through 120 are currently amended. Claims 17, 23, 42, 43, 62, 63, 75, 76, 107, and 108 are cancelled without admission and without prejudice to Applicants' right to pursue the canceled subject matter in one or more Continuation applications. The present amendments introduce no new matter and their entry is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has indicated that the Abstract initially filed with the application contains more than 150 words and therefore requires appropriate correction. Applicants submit herewith an amended Abstract that falls within the 150-word limit. No new matter has been added.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1 through 30, and 49 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Claims 1 through 11, 31, 32, 36, 52, 54 through 60, 86 through 88, and 91 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the Examiner asserts that the invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1 through 6, 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0019588 issued to Doganata et al. ("Doganata"). Claims 5, 7, 8, and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Doganata in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0289120 issued to Soulanille et al. ("Soulanille"). Similarly,

claims 12 through 22, 31 through 41, 49 through 61, 70 through 74, 81 through 106, 112 through 116, and 121 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Doganata in view of Soulanille and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0055816 issued to Paine et al. ("Paine").

In addition to the foregoing rejections, the Examiner indicates that claims 23 through 30, 43 through 48, 63 through 69, and 76 through 80 are deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form. In addition, reasons for allowance have been indicated for claims 56, 42, 62, 75, and 107. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for indicating that these claims are allowable if rewritten. Accordingly, the Applicants have rewritten these claims as the Examiner suggests. Favorable consideration of the claims in light of the newly amended claims is respectfully solicited.

Claims 1 through 30 and 49 have been rejected as not enabled by the specification as required under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Regarding claim 1, the Examiner states that the specification does not contain a clear and concise description of the process of identification such that a skilled artisan can make and use present invention. Specifically, it is asserted by the Examiner that specification does not enable the claimed steps of "identifying the search query as ambiguous" and "clustering a plurality of search results for the search query into interpretation clusters". 2/21/2006 Office Action, p. 4.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and submit that the specification as filed enables one of skill in the art to identify a search query as ambiguous without undue experimentation. Applicants specifically point to lines 3 through 15 at page 2; lines 15 through 22 at page 4; lines 5 through 11 at page 38; and

lines 6 through 13 at page 40 of the application which provide adequate disclosure and description for one of skill in the art to create identify a search query as ambiguous. Additionally, Applicants point to lines 9 through 15 at page 2; lines 20 at page 2 through lines 11 at page 3; lines 15 through 23 at page 4; page 8 and page 10 of the specification which provide adequate disclosure and description for one of skill in the art to cluster a plurality of search results for a search query into interpretation clusters.

Regarding claim 49, the Examiner stated that the specification does not contain a clear and concise description of the process of identification such that one of skill in the art could make and use present invention. Specifically, it is asserted by the Examiner that specification does not enable the claimed step of “wherein identifying interpretation clusters comprises evaluating redundant term vectors”. 2/21/2006 Office Action, p. 4.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and submits that the specification as filed enables one of skill in the art to evaluate redundant term vectors without undue experimentation. Applicant specifically points to lines 1 through 7 at page 15; page 23 through 25 of the specification which provide adequate disclosure and description for one of skill in the art to evaluate redundant term vectors.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections of claims 4, 6, 8 and 10 as not enabled under 35 U.S.C § 112, first paragraph.

In addition to the foregoing rejections, the Examiner rejects claims 1 through 11, 31, 32, 36, 52, 54 through 60, 86 through 88 and 91 under 35 U.S.C. 101, asserting that the rejected claims are directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Specifically, the Examiner asserts that an interpretation cluster is an abstract idea and is not patentable because a human mind could interpret a cluster. Applicant hereby amends independent claims 1, 31, 52 and 86 to recite a “computer implemented” method, thereby reflecting the computerized nature of the claims and removing them from the scope of methods performed by the human mind.

Regarding the rejection of pending claims as obvious, Applicants assert that the Examiner is improperly citing Soulanille and Paine as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). The present application, U.S. Serial No. 10/623,115 (the “’115 application”), Soulanille and Paine were, at the time the invention described in the ’115 application was made, owned by Overture (Goto.com). Therefore, Applicants assert common ownership in accordance with MPEP 706.02(l)(2), disqualifying Soulanille and Paine as prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(c). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5, 7, 8, 11, 12 through 22, 31 through 41, 49 through 61, 70 through 74, 81 through 106, 112 through 116, and 121 under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested in light of the above remarks.

For at least all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and objections, and allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully solicited. To expedite prosecution of this application to allowance, the examiner is invited to call the applicants' undersigned representative to discuss any issues relating to this application.

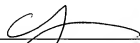
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Respectfully submitted,

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail addressed to: Mail Stop: Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


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6/16/06
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